

VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Training

2015 Residency Showcase Information

CSHP Seminar

Booth 504
Friday, October 9, 2-5pm

ASHP Midyear

Booth 6501
Tuesday, December 8, 1-4pm

Open House

Saturday, December 19, 2015 from 9am-12pm

RSVP to jonathan.lacro@va.gov

Open to PGY1 2016-2017 applicants only

Agenda: Informal Q & A Session and Medical Center Tour

For general information, contact

jonathan.lacro@va.gov



Pharmacy Residency Programs

Thank you for inquiring about the VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Residency Programs. We are pleased you are considering our program(s) for your professional future! This booklet provides valuable information about our facility, teaching programs, preceptor faculty, clinical practice experiences and residency programs.

- PGY1 Pharmacy - Track A General, established 1973, ASHP-accredited
- PGY1 Pharmacy - Track B Ambulatory Care Emphasis, established 2006, ASHP-accredited
- PGY1 Managed Care, established 2008, ASHP/AMCP accredited
- PGY2 Ambulatory Care, established 1994, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Critical Care, established 2007, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration, established 2009, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy, established 2007, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics, established 2009, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Nephrology Pharmacy, established 2009, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Oncology, established 2006, ASHP-accredited
- PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy, established 2007, ASHP-accredited

We pride ourselves in providing a unique and innovative pharmaceutical care program in which all our pharmacists participate. Patients are our primary customers and we strive to establish good pharmacist-patient relationships. Our pharmacy service is committed to providing good customer service for our veteran patients.

For the resident, we offer an opportunity to participate in active pharmacy practice in a number of clinical settings, including our expansive ambulatory care clinics. Our university affiliations with pharmacy schools at University of California – San Diego and University of the Pacific facilitates the development of teaching skills. Members of our staff are committed to supporting the residency program and assisting residents throughout the residency year. It is a year for tremendous learning.

We hope you will decide to join us for your residency year at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. We look forward to receiving your application!



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VA San Diego Healthcare System

VHA Mission Honor America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.

VHA Vision VHA will continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in health care and benefits by providing exemplary services that are both patient centered and evidence based. This care will be delivered by engaged, collaborative teams in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery and continuous improvement. It will emphasize prevention and population health and contribute to the nation's well-being through education, research and service in national emergencies.

Core Values (I.C.A.R.E) *Integrity:* Act with high moral principle. *Commitment:* Work diligently to serve veterans and other beneficiaries. *Advocacy:* Be truly veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of veterans and other beneficiaries. *Respect:* Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect. *Excellence:* Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement.

Key Facts:

- Provided high quality health care to 78,979 veterans in the San Diego and Imperial Valley counties in FY2014
- Offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient health services at the medical center in La Jolla (304 beds) and at the six community clinics located in Chula Vista, Escondido, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, Oceanside and Sorrento Valley
- Provide medical, surgical, mental health, geriatric, spinal cord injury, and advanced rehabilitation services
- Affiliated with the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and provide training for medical interns, residents and fellows, as well as 64 other teaching affiliations for pharmacy, nursing, dental, and dietetics
- One of the largest research programs in the VA nationally with a budget of over \$44 million (FY 2014)
- Ranks top among Veterans Health Administration's leaders in patient satisfaction

Pharmacy Service

- Pharmacy services at VASDHS are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Decentralized unit-dose service with Barcode Medication Administration, IV Additive Service, Automated Dispensing Systems, Physician Order Entry, Computerized Patient Record System, and Automated Prescription Filling
- Our Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacists, Inpatient Clinical Pharmacists, and Clinical Specialists provide a wide range of pharmaceutical care services to veterans in the inpatient and outpatient settings.

For more information, visit us at www.sandiego.va.gov.

Applicant Qualifications and Application Process

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

- Register with the ASHP Resident Matching Program accessible at <http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/>
- Possess United States citizenship; Naturalized citizens must be able to provide proof of naturalization
- Possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited School or College of Pharmacy
- PGY1 applicants must be eligible for licensure to practice pharmacy from any state at the beginning of their residency program
- PGY2 applicants must be licensed to practice pharmacy from any state at the beginning of their residency program
- PGY2 applicants must complete or be in the process of completing an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency **OR** have equivalent experience

APPLICATION PROCESS

- All application materials must be submitted through Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application (PhORCAS):
 - **DEADLINE for PGY1 Programs** is January 1, 2016
 - **DEADLINE for PGY2 Programs** is January 15, 2016
- Submitted Materials must include:
 - Basic Demographics
 - Verified Transcripts
 - **ALL** Schools or Colleges of Pharmacy attended
 - Personal Statement / Letter of Intent specifically addressing why you desire to be matched to our residency program
 - **PGY1 Applicants**
 - Include your short- and long-term professional goals
 - Describe how our residency program will assist you in accomplishing your goals
 - Include your single greatest strength **AND** weakness and comment on how these will affect your performance as a resident
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Three letters of recommendation using the standardized reference template in PhORCAS
 - **PGY1 Applicants**
 - At least one letter writer should be from a preceptor of a Direct Patient Care APPE such as Internal Medicine or Ambulatory Care
 - Extracurricular Information
 - Supplemental Information
 - **PGY2 Applicants Only**
 - Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA Form # 10-2850D) accessible at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/archive/VAFORM10-2850d.pdf>
- Selected applicants will be invited to a personal on-site interview occurring in February or March. Candidates who are not invited for an on-site interview will be notified via e-mail

For general information regarding the application process, contact:

jonathan.lacro@va.gov

General Residency Information

Pay and Benefits

Period of Appointment

- **PGY1:** 12 months, from June 26, 2016 through June 23, 2017
- **PGY2:** 12 months, from July 10, 2016 through July 7, 2017

Estimated Stipend: \$44,708 (PGY1) \$48,434 (PGY2)

Benefits: Approximately 13 days Annual Leave (“vacation”) and 13 days of Sick Leave, 11 federal holidays and Authorized Absence (leave with pay) to attend selected professional meetings. Health, life, vision/dental insurance options. Office with up-to-date computer systems, lab coats and lab coat laundry service, and free parking is provided.

Annual leave (vacation) is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks.

Sick Leave is earned at the rate of 4 hours every two weeks and can be used for illness and injury as well as medical, dental, optical, and other medically-related appointments or procedures.

Pharmacist Licensure

PGY1: Professional pharmacist licensure from any state must be obtained either prior to the beginning of the residency program or the resident must provide proof of sitting for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacist Jurisprudent Licensure Examination (MPJE) within 30 days from the first day of the beginning of their residency training and must obtain professional pharmacist licensure within 90 days from the first day of the beginning of their residency program.

PGY2: Professional pharmacist licensure from any state is required upon entry into the program. Professional pharmacist licensure from California is highly encouraged for those programs with direct patient care activities in non-VA facilities (i.e., Ambulatory Care, Critical Care, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Oncology and Psychiatry)

Resident Service Commitment

Staffing will not be scheduled until the resident has evidence of professional licensing and has demonstrated appropriate competencies. Proper training will be provided prior to staffing.

PGY1 Pharmacy Track A – General

Residents will staff a minimum of 20 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days) during their Medicine rotation. Additional staffing days will be required during Critical Care, Psychiatry and selected elective rotations. At least one additional weekend day will be scheduled for training. Residents will also staff a minimum of 6 days in the Ambulatory Care General Medicine (“Primary Care”) Clinics as well as the Outpatient Pharmacy.

PGY1 Pharmacy Track B – Ambulatory Care Emphasis

Residents will staff a minimum of 6 days per month in the Ambulatory Care General Medicine (“Primary Care”) Clinics or Outpatient Pharmacy while on ambulatory care rotations and 2 days per month in Psychiatry Clinics during psychiatry rotation. Residents will also staff a minimum of 8 inpatient days (includes 2 weekend days) per month during selected acute care rotations (Medicine, Geriatrics, Critical Care, SCI).

PGY2 Clinical Programs

Residents in clinical programs will be required to complete staffing related activities in their area of specialization. If applicable, an estimated 50 days of staffing during your residency year will be expected of each resident.

Residency Selection Process

Residency selection for our residency programs are made through the ASHP National Resident Matching Program. The exact number of positions will vary from year to year but is estimated to include the following for 2016-2017:

- **PGY1 Pharmacy - Track A** (5 – 6 residents)
- **PGY1 Pharmacy - Track B** (1 – 2 residents)
- **PGY1 Pharmacy – Managed Care** (1 resident)
- **PGY2 Infectious Diseases** (1 – 2 residents)
- **PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy** (2 residents)
- **All other programs** (1 resident)

Unique Opportunities for Residents

VA Stand Down

Pharmacy Residents participate in the VA Stand Down program each year. Operation Stand Down is a program to provide homeless Veterans with services such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and referrals to a variety of other services. During this event, up to 900 veterans get the help they need to get back into mainstream society. This is all done over a weekend!

Pharmacy Teaching Program

Our Pharmacy Service is fully committed to pharmacy education and training. In addition to our PGY1 programs, we have a wide-ranging collection of administrative and clinical PGY2 residency programs. Of note, Early Commitment into our PGY2 programs is possible. We also maintain active academic relationships with two Schools of Pharmacy. Our pharmacy residents participate in the teaching of approximately 30 Doctor of Pharmacy students from the University of the Pacific and University of California, San Diego Schools of Pharmacy. Pharmacy Residents act as a preceptor to these students and provide formal and informal teaching. In addition to providing one-on-one preceptorship for students during most Advanced Pharmacy Practice rotations, pharmacy residents participate in subject reviews, clinical case presentations, and as moderators for their weekly presentations.

Skill Development Series / Teaching Certificate Program

All pharmacy residents have the opportunity to participate in a Skill Development Series. The Skill Development Series includes regularly scheduled discussion of research-related topics such as study methodology, biostatistics, literature evaluation, individual residency research projects and other contemporary topics relevant to health care professionals. Participation in our Teaching Certificate Program is required and consists of didactic seminars and homework assignments, development of a personal teaching philosophy and providing formal teaching experiences in clinical rotational settings. Upon completion, participants will be equipped to competently serve as preceptors for Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential rotations in clinical settings.

Ambulatory Care Clinics

Pharmacy Residents may participate in a wide selection of multidisciplinary and pharmacist-run ambulatory care clinics, including Anticoagulation, Diabetes, Lipid, Dermatology, Medication Management (Compliance), Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT), Psychiatry, and Renal. Secondary clinics include Cardiomyopathy, Neurology, Oncology, Pain Management, Pulmonary, Special ID, and Urology. Residents can participate in clinics at the VA Medical Center and our community based outpatient clinics located throughout San Diego County.

Possible Elective Rotation Experiences

VA and Non-VA elective opportunities are available and include Emergency Department, Geriatrics, Infectious Diseases, Informatics, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Oncology, Pain Management, Nephrology and Surgery.

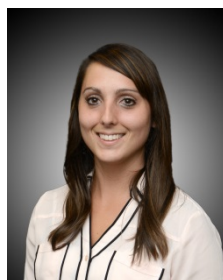
2015 – 2016 PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Class



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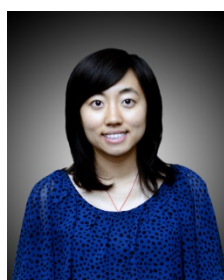
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Julia Thai, Pharm.D.
Pharmacy – Managed Care
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Requirements for Successful Completion of PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

- All learning experiences (rotations)
- All learning experience evaluations (self, preceptor, learning experience, end-of year, etc)
- Staffing Assignments
- Formulary Project (i.e., Drug Monograph or Drug Class Review)
- Continuing Education Presentation
- In-services
- Research Project
- Research Platform Presentation to Western States Conference or VISN 22 for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows and Preceptors
- Formal Research Report
- Service Enhancement Project (i.e., Patient Safety Tool or Bulletin)
- One monthly Adverse Drug Reaction report
- Formal participation in one agenda item for the P&T Committee, Medication Safety Committee or other formal multidisciplinary medical center committee

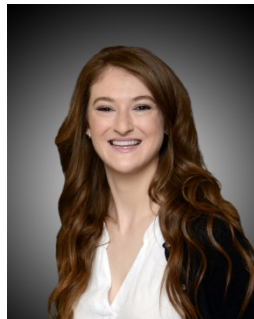
2015 – 2016 PGY2 Pharmacy Residency Class



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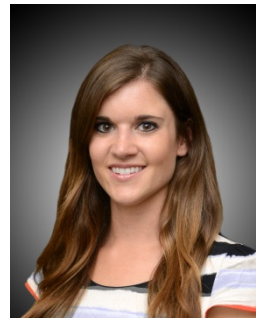
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PGY1 Pharmacy

Program Purpose:

Our PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency Programs are designed to develop pharmacists with skills to provide cost-effective pharmacotherapy to adults and geriatrics patients with common medical disorders in acute and ambulatory care settings. Additionally, they will be proficient in communicating with and educating pharmacist trainees, pharmacists, other health care providers and the community on drug related topics. Lastly, they will be eligible for additional post-graduate training.

Program Structure:

- 2 week Orientation at beginning of academic year
- 11 Rotation blocks which are ~4 to 6 weeks in duration consisting of 20 to 25 business days

Program Comparison:

Characteristic	Track A General	Track B Ambulatory Care Emphasis
Required Rotations (# of blocks)	Administration (1) Ambulatory Care (2) Critical Care (1) Infectious Diseases (1) Psychiatry (1) Medicine (2) Electives (3)	Administration (1) Ambulatory Care (4) Acute Care (3) Psychiatry (1) Electives (2)
Required Longitudinal Experiences	Formulary Project & Consults Medication Safety Project Research Project Skill Development Series Teaching Certificate Program	Formulary Project & Consults Medication Safety Project Research Project Service Enhancement Project Skill Development Series Teaching Certificate Program
ASHP Code	92360	92360
NMS Code	191613	191621

For additional information, contact:

Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Residency Program Director

PGY1 Pharmacy

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PGY1 Managed Care Pharmacy Residency

ASHP Code: 92012

NMS Code: 153414

Program Purpose:

This PGY1 Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program is designed to develop a pharmacist to accept a position in a Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) environment, with a foundation of knowledge applicable in both private and public health care systems. Graduates will be skilled in formulary management and development processes, such as: Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committee presentations/work ups, Medication Safety Committee involvement, guidance document development (algorithms, criteria for use, monographs, etc), cost measurement monitoring, retrospective evaluations assessing clinical/cost effects of initiatives, identification of opportunities for cost savings or clinical improvements in care, and individual non-formulary drug case reviews. Position titles which resident would be prepared to accept following residency include (but are not limited to) the following: Pharmacoeconomics Specialist, Formulary Management Pharmacist, Prior Authorization Pharmacist, or Managed Care Pharmacist. Lastly, graduates will be able to effectively communicate and educate patients, clinicians, residents, and students regarding pertinent formulary or policy related topics.

Required Rotations	Acute Care (1) Ambulatory Care (1) Administration Drug Information Formulary Management Elective (1)
Required Longitudinal Experiences	Formulary Project & Consults Medication Safety Research Skill Development Series Teaching Certificate Program

For additional information, contact:

Nermeen Madkour, PharmD, CSP

Residency Program Director

PGY1 Managed Care

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PGY2 Ambulatory Care

ASHP Code: 92364

NMS Code: 510565

Program Overview:

This 12-month ASHP-accredited PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency offers an advanced training opportunity with rotational experience in the ambulatory care setting. Our program is designed to meet outcomes required by the PGY2 Ambulatory Care ASHP Accreditation Standard:

Outcome 1: Establish a collaborative interdisciplinary practice.

Outcome 2: Provide efficient, effective, evidence-based, patient-centered treatment for chronic and/or acute illnesses in all degrees of complexity.

Outcome 3: Demonstrate leadership and practice management skills.

Outcome 4: Promote health improvement, wellness, and disease prevention.

Outcome 5: Demonstrate excellence in provision of training or educational activities for health care professionals and trainees.

Outcome 6: Serve as the ultimate resource on optimal prescribing of medications.

Outcome E1: Demonstrate additional competencies that contribute to working successfully in the VA Healthcare System.

The goal of our PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency training program is to develop the clinical competencies needed to serve as a well-rounded Clinical Pharmacy Specialist (CPS) in the ambulatory care setting. The resident will be provided opportunities to become proficient in the delivery of pharmaceutical care to adult patients with chronic diseases routinely encountered in the VA setting. Our clinically based program offers outpatient longitudinal experiences that can be tailored to one's interests and are devoted to developing the skills and clinical expertise needed for the delivery of patient-centered care by providing exposure to various clinics where the CPS has a scope of practice to manage common chronic diseases. These clinics include: Anticoagulation, Diabetes, Lipid, Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT), Smoking Cessation, Care Coordination Home Telehealth (CCHT), CHF, Gout, Dermatology, Medication Management, Pain, Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC), Renal, Immunization, Hepatitis C, Infectious Disease, Oncology, Eye and Urology. Month-long elective rotations are also offered depending on resident's interest (i.e. Emergency Department, Pain, Nephrology, Psychiatry, Hematology/Oncology, Informatics, Geriatrics, Pharmacy Administration, and Infectious Disease). Besides development of clinical skills, the resident will also be provided experience in outcome-oriented research, public speaking, precepting and clinic development. Graduates of this program should be able to provide a high level of direct patient care as a CPS in ambulatory care and, if desired, achieve Board Certification in Ambulatory Care.

Service Commitment: Residents will staff 1 day per week in the Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Pharmacy. Additional staffing responsibilities may vary depending on the elective learning experiences.

Facilities: The resident office is located at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla, California and most activities will be coordinated from this site. However, the resident will be required to travel to surrounding Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) within the San Diego County area.

Forward questions to:

Tung Le, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP

Residency Program Director

VA San Diego Healthcare System (119)

3350 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92161

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Phone: 858-552-8585 x 3026, Fax: 858-552-7582

PGY2 Critical Care

ASHP Code: 92367

NMS Code: 609052

Purpose:

This PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency is designed to transition PGY1 residency graduates from general practice to specialized practice that focuses on the needs of critically ill patients. Training will include developing the skills and confidence necessary to treat the wide range of diseases and disorders that occur in the critically ill. Emphasis will be placed on the medications used in the critical care environment and special considerations needed when treating patients with multiple organ system failure. Throughout this program, the PGY2 resident will become an integrated member of the interdisciplinary critical care teams on pulmonary, cardiology, and surgery services. Responsibilities will include direct patient care, teaching health professionals as well as those health professionals in training, and completing a research project in the critical care environment. After completion of the PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency, the graduate will be prepared to accept a position as a critical care pharmacist specialist in an intensive care unit, emergency department or trauma center.

Educational Outcomes:

- Optimize the outcomes of critically ill patients by providing evidence-based medication therapy as an integral part of an interdisciplinary team
- Demonstrate excellence in the provision of training, including preceptorship, or educational activities for health care professionals in training
- Participate in the management of medical emergencies
- Demonstrate leadership and practice management skills in the critical care environment
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to conduct a critical care pharmacy research project

Didactic Course Work:

- Provide formalized critical care medication-related information
- Education will include formal and informal critical care training classes; rounding with pulmonary/critical care, cardiology, and surgical services as well as emergency department training
- Specialty service electives available in operating room/anesthesia, infectious diseases and nephrology
- Continuing education programs and conferences with cutting-edge training in critical care

Special Features: Experiential opportunities exist at local affiliated facilities in trauma, emergency medicine, bone marrow transplantation, and neonatal and pediatric ICU.

Facilities: The resident office is located at the VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) in California and most activities will be coordinated from this site.

Forward questions to:

Maria K. Stubbs, B.S., BCPS (maria.stubbs@va.gov)
VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Service (119)
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Phone: (858) 552-8585 ext. 2377

PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration

ASHP Code: 92386

NMS Code: 613663

Purpose:

This specialty residency is designed to prepare a pharmacy practitioner for a clinical or operational management/supervisory role in a variety of work settings. The residency is designed to provide a strong foundation for pharmacy administration skills and competencies in pharmacy practice leadership.

Program Description:

This is a twelve month postgraduate year two program that provides training and experience in Health System Pharmacy Administration. Pharmacists completing this PGY2 specialty residency will build off their PGY1 residency competencies in the delivery of patient-centered care and pharmacy operational services. This residency lays the foundation for continued growth in management and leadership skills with the expectation that with several years of successful pharmacy administration practice, the residency graduate should be ready to assume high-level managerial, supervisory, and leadership responsibilities of a large hospital or health-system pharmacy.

Program preceptors will provide significant opportunities for the resident to contribute to management and leadership activities at the local, regional, or national VA. Appropriate guidance and instruction will be provided for all activities, as well as development of a career path and objectives for the resident. These opportunities include, but are not limited to medication preparation, distribution, and use, performance improvement, strategic planning, regulatory compliance, medication safety, human resource management, fiscal management, automation, and technology.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the principles of administration and leadership in a highly innovative integrated healthcare system.
- Develop an understanding and competency in managing and leading a large complex pharmacy organization
- Develop skills in research design and data analysis to assess pharmaceutical-related economic, clinical, and humanistic health outcomes.

Facilities: The resident office will be located at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla, California and most activities will be coordinated from this site.

Forward questions to:

Poonam P. Tzorfias, Pharm.D., MBA
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PGY2 Infectious Diseases

ASHP Code: 92366

NMS Code: 604255

Program Overview:

Our PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency Program is designed to provide the resident the skills necessary to become a competent and confident practitioner of pharmaceutical care in a variety of infectious diseases practice settings. The resident will be involved in achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes as an active member of the infectious diseases healthcare team. Activities of the resident will include, but are not limited to, rounding with the acute care infectious diseases consult team, attending HIV, immunization, Hepatitis C, and general ID clinics, antimicrobial stewardship, precepting PGY1 residents and students, conducting case conferences at UCSD, and educating other healthcare professionals, patients, and the community on infectious diseases-related topics.

After completion of the PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Residency, the resident will possess the skills needed to work as a competent pharmacist in a variety of infectious disease practice settings. This includes pharmacy ID specialty positions in both the ambulatory care and inpatient arenas. The graduate will also be prepared to accept an academic position with a school of pharmacy or a scientific liaison position within the pharmaceutical industry.

Learning Objectives:

At the completion of training, the resident will have demonstrated the following competencies:

- Promote health improvement, wellness, and the prevention of infectious diseases
- Optimize the outcomes of individuals with an infectious disease by providing evidence-based, patient-centered medication therapy as an integral member of an interdisciplinary team
- Manage and improve the medication-use process in infectious diseases patient care areas
- Demonstrate excellence in the provision of training or educational activities on optimizing anti-infective pharmacotherapy for health care professionals and health care professionals in training
- Serve as an authoritative resource on the optimal use of medications used to treat individuals with an infectious disease
- Demonstrate leadership and practice management skills
- Conduct infectious diseases pharmacy practice research
- Demonstrate skills required for managing and improving anti-infective-use processes.

Didactic Course Work: Education will include infectious diseases case conferences and microbiology rounds, continuing education programs and conferences with focus on infectious diseases.

Special Features: Experiential opportunities exist at local affiliated facilities to get additional experience in inpatient and outpatient (clinics) settings as well as the pharmaceutical industry.

Facilities: The resident office will be located at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla, California and most activities will be coordinated from this site. The resident will also have the option to rotate off-site to experience other infectious diseases practice settings.

Forward questions to:

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(Ariel.Ma@va.gov)

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(119)

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Phone: (858) 552-8585

PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics

ASHP Code: 92018

NMS Code: 627674

Program Overview:

Our PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics residency will provide the skills necessary for the practical application of pharmacy information and automated technology assessment principles in integrated healthcare systems. The resident will be involved with every aspect in the management of pharmacy data applications, data support and analysis for pharmacy and medical center leadership, pharmacy technology assessment, implementation, and maintenance. The resident will gain experience in a Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (CPOE), Barcode Medication Administration (BCMA), medication storage and retrieval devices (Omnicell®), medication dispensing robotics (ScriptPro®), and drug accountability software (Docusys®, VA accountability package). Other responsibilities include conducting outcomes research, and precepting students and practice residents with informatics related projects. Education will include formal informatics training and hands-on application of principles. Work activities will encompass the VASDHS, and Veterans Integrated Service Network 22 (VISN 22). Out-of-state and in-state travel may be required.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the principles of the use of pharmacy information in an integrated healthcare system.
- Develop an understanding of healthcare technology development, evaluation, implementation, and maintenance at local, regional, and national levels.
- Develop skills in research design and data analysis to assess pharmaceutical-related economic, clinical, and humanistic health outcomes.
- Develop skills in project management and strengthen communication skills for effective collaboration with the multidisciplinary team
- Develop an understanding of the role of pharmacy informatics in medication safety to assist in quality improvement.

Didactic Course Work:

- Training in Microsoft applications with emphasis in Excel and SQL.
- Continuing education programs and conferences with cutting-edge training in Pharmacy Informatics, Healthcare Technology, and Outcomes Research.

Special Features: Local, regional and national exposure and activities involving pharmacy data management and technology assessment.

Facilities: The resident office will be located at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla, California and most activities will be coordinated from this site.

Forward questions to:

Daniel Boggie, Pharm.D. (daniel.boggie@va.gov)
or Heidi Chen, Pharm.D. (heidi.chen@va.gov)
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San Diego, CA 92161
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PGY2 Nephrology

ASHP Code: 92021

NMS Code: 628872

Program Overview:

After completing our PGY2 Nephrology Residency, the resident will have the skills necessary to be a competent and confident practitioner of pharmaceutical care in various nephrology settings. The resident will be involved in achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes and providing direct patient care as an active member of the interdisciplinary renal healthcare team in patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, dialysis and transplant population. In addition, the resident will exercise proficiency in communication and in educating other health care professionals and those in training on nephrology pharmacotherapy. Residents will demonstrate professional maturity by following a personal philosophy or practice, monitoring their own performance, and exhibiting commitment to the profession. Education will include formal and informal nephrology training classes and hands-on application. The resident will also be required to design and conduct a research project suitable for presentation and/or publication.

Educational Outcomes:

- Demonstrate leadership and practice management skills in nephrology settings
- Optimize the outcomes of renally impaired patients by providing evidence-based medication therapy as an integral part of an interdisciplinary team
- Demonstrate excellence in the provision of training, including preceptorship, or educational activities for health care professionals in training
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to conduct a nephrology-related pharmacy research project
- Participate in the continuous improvement initiatives of the hemodialysis interdisciplinary team
- Provide formalized nephrology medication-related information

Didactic Course Work:

- Education will include formal and informal nephrology training classes, rounding with renal attendings
- Special electives available in Infectious Diseases, Ambulatory Care and Transplantation
- Continuing education programs and conferences with cutting-edge training in nephrology

Affiliation: University of California, San Diego School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Special Features: Comprehensive nephrology settings including an optional transplant elective rotation in the affiliated UCSD Medical Center.

Facilities: The resident office will be located at the San Diego VA Healthcare System in California and most activities will be coordinated from this site.

Forward questions to:

Chai L Low, Pharm.D., BCPS. (chai.low2@va.gov)
VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Service (119)
3350 La Jolla Village Dr.
San Diego, CA 92161
Phone: (858) 552-8585 ext. 6446

PGY2 Oncology

ASHP Code: 92361

NMS Code: 601460

Program Purpose:

Our PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency training program is designed to develop clinical competency as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the area of oncologic pharmacotherapy. The program will train the resident to be proficient in the delivery of pharmaceutical care in adult patients with all common cancers and related hematologic disorders, as seen routinely in the VA setting. Our clinically based program offers ongoing inpatient and outpatient longitudinal experiences devoted to the development of skills essential for the delivery of pharmaceutical care with a primary focus on oncology. To augment the VA experience, the resident may train off site for 2 to 3 months in the areas of bone marrow transplant, hospice and palliative care, gynecologic cancers (optional) and pediatric oncology (optional). In addition, graduates will be able to achieve optimal drug therapy outcomes as active members of the health care team. The resident will be able to serve as a competent oncology rotation preceptor of 4th year pharmacy and PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residents students in their Oncology Pharmacy Practice Experience elective rotations. Lastly, these graduates will be able to exercise proficiency in communication and in educating other health care professionals, patients, and the community on drug related topics in oncology. While emphasizing clinical oncologic pharmacology, the residency program provides ample opportunity for the resident to learn and develop administrative, teaching and research skills.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the general principles of oncology in an integrated healthcare system
- Develop an understanding of the principles of prevention and management of chemotherapy-related toxicities
- Develop skills in research design and methodologies to assess pharmaceutical-related economic, clinical, and humanistic health outcomes

Upon completion of the 12-month training program, graduates are expected to be academically knowledgeable, clinically astute, mature and caring oncology pharmacy clinical practitioners with a broad knowledge base in general hematology and oncology. With the specialized knowledge and skills provided during the program, graduates should be able to provide a high level of direct patient care, ultimately leading to competence commensurate with Board Certification in Oncology Pharmacy Practice by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, and obtain employment as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Oncology.

Special Features: Experiential opportunities exist at local affiliated facilities to get experience in bone marrow transplant and hospice care.

Forward questions to:

Muoi Gi, Pharm.D., BCPS BCOP (muoi.gi@va.gov)
VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Service (119)
3350 La Jolla Village Dr. San Diego, CA 92161
Phone: (858) 552-8585 x5340
Fax: (858) 552-7485

PGY2 Psychiatry

ASHP Code: 92362

NMS Code: 606466

Program Overview:

Our PGY2 residency program in psychiatry is designed to foster competency in the area of clinical psychiatric pharmacotherapy. Residents develop advanced clinical skills through hands-on participation in outpatient and inpatient longitudinal rotations. Core experiences include inpatient psychiatry rounds, outpatient psychiatry clinics, geriatrics, and substance use disorders. Elective rotations are flexible and based on the resident's interests. Graduates of our program are trained to become knowledgeable, well-rounded psychiatric pharmacists. Residents will be able to provide an advanced level of patient care, including participation in pharmacist-run mental health clinics. Upon graduating the program, residents will be well-prepared to obtain board certification in psychiatric pharmacy (BCPP) as well as to provide psychiatric pharmacy services in a variety of settings.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the program, the resident will be able to:

- Serve as an authoritative resource on optimal medication use in individuals with psychiatric and neuropsychiatric disorders
- Optimize outcomes for patients with a variety of psychiatric and neuropsychiatric disorders by providing evidence-based, patient-centered medication therapy as an integral member of multidisciplinary treatment teams
- Evaluate and improve the medication-use process in psychiatric and neuropsychiatric patient care areas
- Conduct psychiatric pharmacy practice and outcomes research
- Serve as a psychiatric pharmacy preceptor for advanced pharmacy practice experiences and PGY1 residents

Unique Features:

- Fully integrated mental health pharmacy services, including pharmacist-run medication management clinics for schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, geriatrics, military sexual trauma, and PTSD. Of note, most of our psychiatric pharmacists possess Scopes of Practice that allow them to practice independently as mid-level healthcare providers
- Opportunities in acute, ambulatory and specialty care including a multidisciplinary inpatient unit, a Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP), a Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP) and a Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)
- Our medical center is home to several specialty research programs, including Mental Illness Rehabilitation, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) and Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health (CESAM)
- Formal interprofessional training in psychosomatic medicine with clinical experiences in Pain Management, Consult Liaison, Hematology/Oncology and Smoking Cessation

Facilities: The residents' office will be located at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla, and most activities will be coordinated from this site. Some clinical experiences will be conducted at outpatient clinics located in Mission Valley and Oceanside.

Forward questions to:

Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP (jonathan.lacro@va.gov)
VA San Diego Healthcare System Pharmacy Service (119)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161
Phone: (858) 642-3497

Pharmacy Services Key Personnel

Administration

Chief	Poonam P. Tzorfias, Pharm.D., MBA
Associate Chief	Victoria Aldridge, Pharm.D
Administrative Officer	Lisa Nelson
Director, Pharmacy Education & Training	Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP
Co-Director, Ambulatory Care	Elizabeth Gramer, Pharm.D.
Co-Director Ambulatory Care	Canh-Nhut Nguyen, Pharm.D.
Director, Inpatient Section	Bassem Fahmi-Armanious, Pharm.D., MBA
Director, Medication Safety	Jennifer Howard, Pharm.D.
Director, Pharmacy Data Applications & Analysis	Daniel Boggie, Pharm.D.
Director, Pharmacy Integrated Technology	Heidi Chen, Pharm.D.

Residency Program Directors

PGY1 Pharmacy (Tracks A and B)	Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP
PGY1 Managed Care Pharmacy	Nermeen Madkour, Pharm.D., CSP
PGY2 Ambulatory Care	Tung Le, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP
PGY2 Critical Care	Maria Stubbs, B.S., BCPS
PGY2 Infectious Diseases	Scott T. Johns, Pharm.D., BCPS
PGY2 Nephrology	Chai Low, Pharm.D., BCPS
PGY2 Oncology	Muoi Gi, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCOP
PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration	Poonam P. Tzorfias, Pharm.D., MBA
PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics	Daniel Boggie, Pharm.D.
PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy	Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP

Profiles of Selected Faculty by Section

Administration



Poonam P. Tzorfas, Pharm.D., MBA is the Chief, Pharmacy Service. Dr. Tzorfas received her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry Degree from University of California, Riverside, Pharm.D. Degree from University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy, did a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA San Diego Healthcare System and received her M.B.A. Degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Prior to being the Chief at VA San Diego, she was the Chief of Pharmacy at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center for six years and Acting Medical Center Associate Director for 10 months. Dr. Tzorfas has held faculty appointments at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA and University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. Throughout her career, she has received several honors and awards, most notably recognized as the San Diego County Pharmacist of the Year and as the Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association.



Victoria Aldridge, Pharm.D. is currently the Associate Chief, Pharmacy. Dr. Aldridge received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VASDHS. Dr. Aldridge's main area of clinical practice has been in the inpatient setting at the VASDHS where she has held various positions since 2001 including Patient Education, Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Associate Director and Director of the Inpatient Pharmacy Section. She holds a clinical faculty appointment with the University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy. Dr. Aldridge has been an active member and has held many offices in local pharmacy organizations.



Bassem Fahmi-Armanious, Pharm.D., MBA is Director, Inpatient Pharmacy. Dr. Fahmi-Armanious received his Pharm.D. degree from Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy in Downers Grove, Illinois and his M.B.A. Degree from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. Before joining the VASDH, Dr. Fahmi-Armanious served as the Lead Pharmacist for Pediatrics at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. He then served as the Inpatient Pharmacy Supervisor at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois for six years.



Jennifer Howard, Pharm.D., is the Director of Medication Safety at VA San Diego Healthcare System. Dr. Howard received her Pharm.D. degree from University of the Pacific Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She completed a General Pharmacy Practice Residency with a Geriatric Emphasis at VA San Diego. Dr. Howard has had numerous roles at VA San Diego including Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist, Associate Director of Inpatient Pharmacy Section and Director of Pharmaceutical Integrated Technologies. She holds a clinical faculty appointment with the University of Pacific School of Pharmacy and University of California San Diego School of Pharmacy.

Ambulatory Care



Tung N. Le, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care and she serves as the Pharmacy Program Director for PACT. In addition, she serves as the Residency Program Director for our PGY2 Ambulatory Care Programs. She received her Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She completed her first General Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA Portland Medical Center followed with the completion of a second year specialty residency in Ambulatory Care at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. Her clinical practices are in primary care with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia.



Liz Gramer, Pharm.D. is the Co-Director of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy at VA San Diego Healthcare System. She received her Pharm.D. degree from University of the Pacific Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She completed her General Pharmacy Practice Residency followed by a second year specialty residency in Pharmacy Administration at VA San Diego. Her areas of focus include pharmacy administration and outpatient pharmacy operations.



Tim Chen, Pharm.D., BCACP, CGP received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Western University of Health Sciences. He completed his Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Residency at VA San Diego. He also trained for 1 year in Hematology/Oncology Fellowship at Western University of Health Sciences. He has faculty appointments with UOP and UCSD schools of pharmacy and currently holds dual appointment as Clinical Pharmacist Specialist and Director of VA National Tobacco Cessation Resource Center (ASCEND). His clinical practices are in Dyslipidemia, Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC), Hypertension, and Tobacco Cessation.



Michael B. Dunn Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP is an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist and received his Pharm.D. Degree at Western University of Health Sciences and completed his PGY1 Residency with an emphasis on Ambulatory Care at VA San Diego. He is currently a PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team) Pharmacist. He holds faculty appointments at the University of Pacific and University of California at San Diego.



Candace Eacker (Ellis), Pharm.D. received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of the Pacific. She then completed the Geriatrics Pharmacy Residency at the VA San Diego Medical Center. Following completion of her residency, she was hired at VA San Diego and worked in various areas including the surgery and general medicine inpatient areas. She then went on to work in the ambulatory care section and is currently the CCHT pharmacist. She has faculty appointments at both UOP and UCSD Schools of Pharmacy. Her clinical specialty areas of practice are in Diabetes and Neurology.

Ambulatory Care



Melissa K. Egan, Pharm.D., CACP is an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist and Program Director of the Anticoagulation Clinic at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. Dr. Egan received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of Southern California. She completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency with emphasis in Primary Care at VA Long Beach Medical Center. Dr. Egan has been the Lead Pharmacist in the Anticoagulation Clinic since 1999 and has been a Certified Anticoagulation Care. Provider since 2001. She has faculty appointments with UOP and UCSD Schools of Pharmacy.

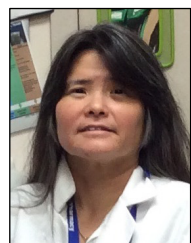


Edna Ng-Chen, Pharm.D., BCACP is a Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist Specialist. She received her Pharm.D. from the University Of Southern California School Of Pharmacy and completed a Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VASDHS. She has faculty appointments with University of the Pacific and University of California at San Diego schools of pharmacy and a student coordinator for the Ambulatory Care Clinical Rotation Program. She is currently a PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team) Pharmacist. Her clinical practices are in anticoagulation, hypertension, diabetes and dyslipidemia.



Nina von Kuster, Pharm.D., BCACP is an Ambulatory Care Pharmacist Specialist. Dr. vonKuster received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency with emphasis in Ambulatory Care at the Long Beach VA Medical Center. Dr. vonKuster has been practicing in Ambulatory Care at the VASDHS since 1999. Her areas of specialty include diabetes, dyslipidemia, anticoagulation and cardiology and she holds faculty appointments at the University of Pacific and University of California at San Diego. She is currently a PACT Pharmacist.

Acute Care



Lisa Arai, Pharm.D., is a Critical Care Pharmacist Specialist. Dr. Arai received her Pharm.D. Degree from the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VASDHS. Dr. Arai has been practicing in critical care at the VASDHS ICU since 2001 and is active in clinical research. She serves as a preceptor for the critical care rotation for APPE pharmacy students and Pharmacy Resident trainees at VASDHS.



Hala Mouwakeh, RPh., M.S., is a clinical pharmacist for the progressive care unit at VASDHS. She joined the VASDHS in 2000, after moving from New York. Hala spent the last 10 years of her professional career in New York in Pharmacy Management. These positions included Chief of Pharmacy at St. Agnes Hospital and Director of Pharmacy Services at Healix Healthcare Home Infusion. Currently, Hala has clinical faculty appointments at UOP and UCSD Schools of Pharmacy. Hala was a recipient the Preceptor of the Year Award for UOP School of Pharmacy in 2012. She serves as the preceptor for the cardiology rotation for PGY2 critical care residents and pharmacy students as well as attends cardiology rounds.

Acute Care



Maria K. Stubbs, B.S., BCPS is a Critical Care Pharmacist Specialist and Program Director for the PGY2 Critical Care Residency at the VASDHS. Maria received her pharmacy degree at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science in 1990 and has been practicing critical care at the VASDHS since 2000. She has been a full time Pharmacist Specialist since 1990 starting at the Long Beach VA Medical Center where she also practiced in critical care. She is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and holds faculty appointments at the University of the Pacific and the University of California San Diego. More recently, Maria served as a member of the Critical Care Specialty Council for Board of Pharmacy Specialties. This council was responsible for creating the board certified critical care specialist examination with the first exam being administered in October 2015.



Tanya (Thanh) Tran, Pharm.D., BCPS is an Internal Medicine Pharmacist at the VASDHS. She received her Pharm.D. from the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VASDHS. She has faculty appointments at the UOP and UCSD. She serves as Co-coordinator for the Internal Medicine learning experience for 4th year APPE and PGY1 Pharmacy Residency trainees at the VASDHS.



Christine Joy Vo, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP is an Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist at the VASDHS. She received her Pharm.D. from Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Ambulatory Care Residency at the VASDHS. She has faculty appointments at UOP and UCSD. She serves as a preceptor for both Internal Medicine and Surgery learning experiences for 4th year APPE.

Specialty Care



Joel Boerth, Pharm.D., BCPP received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island. He completed a residency and fellowship in Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice at the Institute of Living in Hartford, CT. Here at VA San Diego, he operates a general adult psychiatry clinic (serving a variety of patients with mood, anxiety & psychotic disorders). He has faculty appointments with UCSD and UOP. He has several abstracts and published works involving a range of topics including antipsychotics, cognitive deficits in schizophrenia, poly-pharmacotherapy, and psychiatric sequelae with herbal supplements.



Phillip Dell, Pharm.D. received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology/Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles and his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California. He has faculty appointments with the University of California, San Diego and the University of the Pacific. Dr. Dell works as the inpatient psychiatric pharmacist, which consists of participation in multi-disciplinary team rounds, providing medication education, order verification, and discharge counseling. In addition, he serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students and trains PGY1 and PGY2 residents on inpatient staffing.

Specialty Care



Rene A. Endow-Eyer, Pharm.D., BCPP received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California (USC). She completed a specialty residency in Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice at USC followed by a fellowship in Psychiatric Pharmacy with an Emphasis in Substance Abuse at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System in Seattle, Washington. She runs clinics in general psychiatric disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and military sexual trauma. She has faculty appointments at USC, UOP, and UCSD Schools of Pharmacy. She is actively involved in CPNP and has written the chapter on Bipolar Disorder for the 2010-2011 BCPP Examination Review and Recertification Course, as well as serving as a mentor/author for CPNP's on-line peer reviewed journal, the Mental Health Clinician. She has published the Schizophrenia chapter in Koda-Kimble, MA, et al., eds. *Applied Therapeutics: The Clinical Use of Drugs*. 9th and 10th editions in 2009 and 2012, respectively, has several publications, and presentations at various national meetings.



Sanaz Farhadian, Pharm.D., BCPP received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Diego, and completed her PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy Practice at Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency at the VA San Diego. Dr. Farhadian was previously an Academic Detailing Pharmacist for Mental Health Initiatives. She is currently a Clinical Psychiatric Pharmacist for the Aspire Center (Veteran Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program) in San Diego. She is an author in Koda-Kimble & Young's *Applied Therapeutics* and served as a pharmacotherapist in an NIMH research study on complicated grief. Her research interests include: preventing metabolic abnormalities from antipsychotics and the role of medications versus/in conjunction with psychotherapies for PTSD.



Muoi Gi, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCOP is an Oncology Pharmacist Specialist and Program Director for the PGY2 Oncology Residency at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She received her Pharm.D. degree from Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy. Dr. Gi completed both a Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Residency and an Oncology Pharmacy Residency at the VASDHS. She has been Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy since 2006 and Oncology since 2008. Dr. Gi holds voluntary faculty appointments at the University of the Pacific and UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy.



Elizabeth Jackson, Pharm.D., BCPS received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Diego, and completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VA San Diego. She just recently completed her PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy residency, also at the VA San Diego, in 2015 and was recently hired on as Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Psychiatry. She will be taking her Board Certification in Psychiatric Pharmacy exam in October 2015. Her primary research and clinical interests are in clozapine, treatment-resistant schizophrenia, and suicide prevention.



Scott T. Johns, Pharm.D., BCPS -ID is an Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialist and Program Director for the PGY2 Infectious Diseases Residency at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. Dr. Johns received his Pharm.D. at the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the VASDHS. He has been a full time Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialist since 1994. He holds faculty appointments with three schools of pharmacy (UCSD, UOP, and USC) as well as the UCSD School of Medicine. His areas of interest include HIV therapeutics and antimicrobial pharmacodynamics.

Specialty Care



Jonathan P. Lacro, Pharm.D., FASHP, BCPS, BCPP is Director, Pharmacy Education and Training and serves as Program Director for our PGY1 Pharmacy – Track A/B and PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency Programs. He is an Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy and Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, and has an affiliation with University of the Pacific (UOP) School of Pharmacy. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the UOP, and completed a Residency in Clinical Pharmacy at the VA San Diego and a Fellowship in Psychopharmacology with an emphasis in Geriatric Psychiatry, VA San Diego/UCSD. He conducts a medication management clinic in a Cognitive Disorders Clinic. He served as Principal Investigator of a National Institute of Mental Health funded study titled *Medication Adherence Therapy in Older Psychotic People*.



Susan G. Leckband, RPh, BCPP received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Washington. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy and Psychiatry at UCSD and has affiliations with UOP and USC Schools of Pharmacy. She runs clinics in Mood Disorders and Bipolar Disorder. She is actively involved in the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) and has written the chapter on Bipolar Disorder for the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 BCPP Examination Review and Recertification Course, as well as serving as an editor for CPNP's on-line peer reviewed journal, the Mental Health Clinician. She is a co-principle investigator for a VA Merit Grant funded prospective pharmacogenomics study, "Genetic Predictors of Lithium Response in Bipolar Disorder" and has over 22 publications.



Chai Low, Pharm.D., BCPS, is a Nephrology Pharmacist Specialist and Program Director for the PGY2 Nephrology Residency at the VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHCS). Dr. Low received her Pharm D degree at the Albany College of Pharmacy and completed a 2-year fellowship in Nephrology under the mentorship of Professor George Bailie at the Albany College of Pharmacy. She has experience in academia and has published widely. Her research interests are in the pharmacokinetics of drugs in dialysis and outcomes research in the delivery of pharmaceutical care in renal patients. She has been practicing in nephrology at VASDHCS since 2008. She is a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist since 2006 and holds affiliated faculty appointments at the University of the Pacific and the University of California, San Diego.



Nermeen Madkour, Pharm.D., CSP is Program Manager, Biologics and Specialty Pharmaceuticals and serves as the PGY1 Managed Care Residency Program Director. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University, Glendale and completed a Managed Care Residency at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. Dr. Madkour received additional certification in specialty pharmacy in 2014 and practices in the areas of formulary management and pharmacoeconomics.



Calantha Yon, Pharm.D., BCPS is a Nephrology Pharmacist Specialist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Yon completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Hahnemann University Hospital then completed specialty residency programs in Critical Care and Nephrology at the VA San Diego Healthcare System.



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